



Developing | Exemplar Essay

You've Got a Friend in Me

A Friend in Need



Plot and Ideas

The narrative attempts to engage the reader with a relatable context, but is not wholly successful ("One time my friend Sanaa helped me when I needed it"). Some description of the conflict is offered, but it does not build toward a clear climax and resolution.



Development and Elaboration

The narrator starts to use narrative techniques, such as dialogue and description ("Your my best friend" and "I think I finally get it now"), but does not fully develop them throughout. Characters are introduced (Sanaa, older brother, narrator), but none of them are developed in a way that enhances the narrative.



Organization and Sequencing

Although some transitions are used ("one time" and "the end result"), they do not accurately show sequence of events in this narrative. The story shows some organization (multiple paragraphs and some reference to different points in time), but it is not sufficient to move the reader effectively from one event to the next.



Language and Style

Sentences are clear but simple ("I had a big Math test coming up" and "He's rude sometimes"). While a narrator's voice is attempted, it does not effectively engage the reader throughout the story. The use of more descriptive words and figurative language, such as when character emotions are described, would enhance the narrative overall.



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait 'looks like' in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see "25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays" by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

You've Got a Friend in Me



A Friend in Need

Having a friend is the best gift in the world. One time my friend Sanaa helped me when I needed it. I had a big Math test coming up. I really needed to do good because I had failed the last quiz we took. My teacher gave us a study guide and I took it home and I tried to study it. But I just could not understand any of the problems. Have you ever been in class and been able to do a Math problem but then go home and not understand anything you did? That's what happened when I looked at the study guide by myself. I asked my older brother for help. "Like I have time to help you" he said to me. He's rude sometimes. Just then, I text my best friend Sanaa. She gets good grades in Math. She said she would come over and help me study. "Your my best friend" she said. The next two evenings Sanaa came over and went over the study guide with me.

I thought that I was starting to understand it. "I think I finally get it now" I told Sanaa. When I took the test and got it back, guess what? I got an 82%. That is alot better then what I had been getting before. When I showed Sanaa, she was so happy for me. "I knew you could do it" she said. Sanaa is a true friend because she did not have to take the time to help me. The end result is that she spent her time doing that so I could pass Math class. A friend in need is a friend indeed.